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Vol. 41 No. 6

Yokota Air Base, Japan

Feb. 11, 2000

Where are we going?

By Senior Master Sgt.
Gordon Van Vleet

374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force wants to know what its people are thinking and what their concerns are said Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, Deputy Chief of Staff of Personnel Headquarters USAF, during his brief visit at Yokota Feb. 2 and 3.

The general said he came out here to hear what people are thinking and what they've got on their minds, also he explained, many of the Air Force people he talked to want to know where the Air Force is going and how it is doing.

"PACAF is a very healthy command," said Peterson. "I've been throughout all the bases in WestPAC and have found that the people are very mission oriented and that they are focused on the mission. They are busy and often time stressed and working hard, but they've got their priorities straight."

During a briefing Peterson gave at the base theater Feb. 3, he explained where the Air Force is, "We are the best Air Force in the world; we are strained, stressed, and tired, but not broken."

Peterson continued by telling everyone

how focusing on initiatives to reinforce the culture and values people respect and seek can relieve the strain and stress on today's force. This, Peterson said, would get us to where we want to be. "We will recruit and retain the best and brightest ... we will develop, sustain, and renew the entire work force." This strategy won't develop without an all out effort of all involved, Peterson explained.

Peterson said recruiting and retention are at the top of the list in keeping today's force the strongest. "The Air Force is a very agile force and we've been looking at whether or not we have the manning to take on the tasking. As a result, in some cases we've added to our force.

"In relation to the number of contingencies we deal with and the current manning," the general said, "we think there is a mismatch and clearly our people work very hard and we are trying to get that back in balance."

"We are finding that people, by and large, are interested in their Air Force," said Peterson. This, according to the general, is something that is present throughout the force.

see PETERSON page 2



Liftoff

Above, crew chief Marty Martinez launches UH-1N tail number 69-6646 on a medevac mission to Yokosuka. Side, Staff Sgt. Rich Lewis, of the 459th Airlift Squadron, performs a pre-flight inspection. The helicopter, which served in Vietnam, recently surpassed 10,000 flying hours, a maintenance milestone. Tail number 69-6646, Yokota's oldest, logged an 84 percent mission capable rate in 1999 thanks to Martinez and the rest of the Dynamic Science Inc. team that maintains the wing's four UH-1Ns.



photos by 1st Lt. Andrew Campbell

Safety concerns temporarily shut down skate park

Recent injury and disregard for safety rules causes base leadership to take closer look

By Maj Stephen Clutter

374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Citing safety concerns at the Eastside Skate Park, Yokota Air Base officials closed the facility for five days and convened a special panel to look into ways to ensure that safety rules are followed at the year-old facility.

The temporary closure, which began Feb. 6, was directed by Col. Mark Zamzow, 374th Airlift Wing commander, who also tasked the panel to conduct a review of safety procedures at the facility. The park was set to re-open today.

"Safety awareness and compliance at such a unique facility as the skate park should be a way of life for patrons and their parents," Zamzow said. "At the present time it is not. We need to help their culture and our processes evolve to make it so."

The injury of a Yokota youth Feb. 5 prompted the decision to close the park in order to review safety issues. Although the boy was reportedly wearing a helmet, the incident highlighted the need to review what was going



file photo

Yokota's skatepark is slated to open today, along with new safety procedures.

on at the park.

"There are some safety concerns," said Lt. Col. Jeff Antes, chief of Wing Safety. "The problem isn't with the park itself, but with some of the users. The most serious problem is that a number of people are not using safety gear. We regularly see people flagrantly violating safety rules, and we continue to see the occurrence of preventable injuries."

The special panel, comprised of personnel from Services, Wing Safety, Security Forces and the Medical group, held its first meeting Monday. The session focused on how best to enforce the safety rules at the park, which are clearly posted, but often ignored. School officials are also being consulted about the issue.

Services also raised the concern about the skate park's security and increasing cost to maintain the park. A telephone at the facility -- used to call for help in the event of an accident -- has been destroyed several times. The park has been vandalized on a number of occasions and youths have hopped the fence -- and even cut through it -- to use the park after hours.

The group is considering a variety of measures including issuing ID cards for patrons and requiring safety instruction before patrons can use the facility. The panel is also examining ways to not only enforce safety rules, but also to look for ways to positively reinforce those who are taking the right approach to safety -- for instance by "ticketing" safe patrons with discount coupons for use at base facilities.

Wing officials hope that the majority of patrons who are following the rules will begin putting pressure on those who are not.

see PARK page 6

Voting information available on the web

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Information Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — You can tell it's an election year, because there's a nonstop media barrage telling which candidates are saying what where. But where do uniformed members find clear-cut information on how to vote in their home districts?

Well, look no further than the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site. Program officials have created the "one-stop shop" for the roughly six million potential voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986.

The FVAP is responsible for informing and educating all U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote, fostering voter participation and protecting the integrity of the electoral process at the federal, state and local levels.

To military members, civilian employees and their families stationed overseas, the different voting rules at federal, state and local levels may be as confusing as a maze. Perhaps the most important thing for them to know about absentee voting is how and why to fill out the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, Standard Form 186.

When a Web site visitor clicks on "Learn About Absentee Voting," several links will lead to different information about the post-card-sized form, which isn't available online. Individuals are advised to see their unit voting assistance officer.

The site gives guidelines for determining or establishing a legal residence. Some service members mistakenly believe they may claim any state as their legal residence or that their home of record is automatically their legal residence. Actually, they must meet certain requirements. For instance, a person must have a physical presence in a state and have intent to remain or return. Also, spouses can't just assume their sponsor's legal residence; they must meet the same requirements in their own right.

Residency and other rules are spelled out by clicking on "Learn About Absentee Voting" and then on "Voting Residence for UOCAVA Citizens."

Other helpful features on the site include links to state election sites, a handy chart listing the dates of all state primary elections, and answers to frequently asked questions. There is also a link to a U.S. House of Representatives page that lets visitors search for their representative by state and ZIP code.

The site further helps unit voting assistance officers by providing information on training, and allowing them to download pamphlets and flyers about the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

For more information, call Yokota's voting officer, Capt. Sheelah Walker, at 225-7438.



PETERSON from page 1

One of the positive signals the general has seen during his visit throughout the Pacific is the camaraderie among the people. "The people are working as a team and there is a great sense of family at all the bases I've visited. What I've found is they are a top-rate team, and they are like that throughout our Air Force everywhere I go ... from our youngest airman on up."

"It has been a great visit here and I got a lot of feedback along with many questions

about the AES (Air Expeditionary Force), our Operations Tempo, Quality of Life issues, compensation, recruiting and retention. Those are the areas that most people seem interested in hearing about."

Predictability was a key point in adapting the AES, Peterson point out, "We end up providing more predictability for our people. The predictability will be an almost instant help, while the balance of the resources and tasking will take

a little longer.

"We've already identified 5,500 to 6,000 positions that are necessary in order for us to deploy to a forward base and also maintain the same tasks we have back home," Peterson said. "There will be a couple of bumps in the road, but fortunately we have great folks in the Air Force that can make this happen."

"We wanted to organize ourselves so we can make this (deployments) predictable. We know about what level of activity we've had in the last six or eight years and we used this as kind of a guideline," he said. "We organized the 15-month cycles so we would have three months of what I call the 'hot period' where we are on the hook for a contingency. That should give a planning factor that will help our families as well as the members themselves."

Because the number of forward bases has dropped while the number of contingencies has increased, planning was a key, said Peterson. "The inability to plan was a great concern among many airmen. The lack of having stability associated with our contingency tasking has been one of our most troublesome parts so I think the predictability will definitely help."

Another issue on many of the airmen's minds was home basing. "Our Air Force is about 70 percent married now and they are a real big part of our Air Force 'One Team, One Force, One Family' concept," the general said. "Home basing is an issue that our people are concerned about."

"From the results of a survey we did recently, about 80 percent of the people who responded said that they would like to stay at one place for an extended period of time," Peterson said. "But they also wanted to still ensure career progression and that they be able to move when they want to."

"One of the options we looked at was maybe being able to get back to a given location two or three times during a 20-year career. This focused on the idea that if you own a home there you can maintain equity and not be concerned that you would have to sell it right away and

take a loss."

Another positive aspect Peterson said was, that people with families would also know the quality of the schools and know the people there so if someone was to have to go on a short tour that person wouldn't have to worry about someone helping his or her family.

When asked if he thought the Air Force was about where it should be in manpower, Peterson said, "I think the Air Force is probably short. We've had a significant change from where we were, a large forward-base force of about 830,000, and now down to about 500,000 counting the civilians, yet the operations tempo has increased."

"You can't do the job by yourself, you have to depend on your people," Peterson said. "Given the quality of the people in the Air Force, if you take care of your people, they will take care of the mission."

"We do care about our people in the Air Force," he said. "We are a family, there is no question about it, and our leadership is clearly committed to taking care of our people."

"We often concentrate on the reasons for why we get out or the things we don't like, but we forget there are some very important things inside our Air Force that make the decision to separate, whenever we do, a very difficult one," Peterson said.

"We wanted to look at what we could do to reinforce the positive side of being in the Air Force," the general said. "People said the things they liked the most and would miss the most if they left the Air Force was the camaraderie, the people, the sense of family, the togetherness, the responsibility and the pride of service to the nation."

"We own it to our people to help them realize that. Those are excellent goals, and excellent values that we should reinforce," he said. "The commander's here want to take care of our folks, not because it's smart for employment missions, but because we really do care about our people."

The general summed up his visit to the Pacific by saying, "It is very encouraging to see how you accomplish the mission and I wish every American could see this."

Advertisement

Wing names its top performers

Wing Airman

Senior Airman Shawn Stroup, as a military customs inspector for the 374th Security Forces Squadron, he carried out duties as the dayshift element leader for the Customs and Immigrations Section – the busiest customs branch in U.S. Pacific Command. He discovered and confiscated more than 80 prohibited/restricted items and identified six border violations. He was selected to process numerous distinguished visitors including: former Secretary of Defense William Perry, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton, and Secretary of State Madeline Albright. As statistics monitor his tracking of international passengers resulted in 100 percent accurate statistics provided to the Government of Japan customs officials. Stroup was first on scene to a heart attack victim and quickly calmed and stabilized him until medical personnel arrived.



Tenant Airman

Senior Airman JoAnn Meacham, an Air Force vendor pay technician with the Defense Finance Accounting Service-Japan, took over as chief of the Automated section from May through September when her boss was reassigned. She led a section of seven through the fiscal 1999 closeout. She processed 6,560 payments per month through the Integrated Accounts Payable System, a collaboration of 12,000 invoice transactions with less than \$65 in interest paid the entire period. She reconciled 3,125 lines of accounting totaling \$8 million on the Open Document Listing and identified 165 entries, for \$85,000 that needed obligation adjustments or supporting documentation. Meacham processed all invoices into IAPS in a 24-hour period to ensure discounts were not lost. She had the best percentage of 65 technicians.



Wing NCO

Tech. Sgt. Willie Tuck, superintendent of the 374th Transportation Squadron's Combat Readiness and Resources, prepared the wing for the Combat Employment Readiness Inspection. Preparation of wing augmentees became his personal crusade. He designed reception checklists and charts for the cargo reception unit; and intensified reception/survival skills training. He pioneered the use of a wing material list to pinpoint the exact cargo on each aircraft. As a result 100 percent of incoming cargo was properly identified, secured and released to base units. That prompted IG remarks, "first unit to get it right." He was recognized as the wing's CERI top performer. He was also chosen by the 5th Air Force commander to augment the IG evaluation team and sent to prepare the 35th Airlift Wing at Misawa for their Initial Response Readiness Inspection.



Tenant NCO

Staff Sgt. Bruce Brown, as NCO in charge of the Communications Operations Section for DSRJ, he planned, coordinated and supervised the deactivation of the Message Processing System and complete conversion to the Automated Message Handling System with no disruption to customers. He identified MPS users and reconfigured message accounts with 100 percent data integrity. He coordinated all hardware/software upgrades with minimized downtime and ensured Y2K compliance. Brown prevented an AMHS system shutdown by identifying erroneous message traffic that locked up all user



accountants and threatened to completely shutdown the message processing system. He quickly isolated the problem, reconfigured the system and completely rebuilt each user account restoring the system to normal.

Wing Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Gregory Summers, as chief of customer service and first sergeant for the 374th Comptroller Squadron, he oversaw the unheralded 99 percent processing accuracy of more than 10,000 monthly pay-affecting transactions totaling more than \$150,000 for the military and civilians assigned to Yokota, Tokyo, Malaysia, Diego Garcia and Singapore. He revamped procedures for customer service operations by implementing a one-stop receptionist system, which streamlined customer inquiry procedures and allows for telephone pay inquiries – a first in PACAF. This decreased research and customer waiting times by 20 percent. Summers also implemented an intensive formal training program involving more than 500 individualized training plans and instructions. This decreased initial training time and customer satisfaction rates soared from 55 to 95 percent.



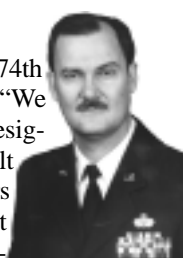
Tenant Senior NCO

Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Byrd, as chief of Army Disbursing and alternate first sergeant of DFAS-Japan, he led the unit to an overall outstanding operational review conducted by Indianapolis Center inspectors. The team recognized him as the best manager in the disbursing operation above four other branch chiefs. He trained Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force disbursing personnel on accountability procedures, a task that required him to master other system applications and develop a standard operation procedure for new personnel to follow. Byrd ensured all disbursing reports were submitted accurately during the first fiscal 2,000 run. In fact DFAS Japan's disbursing reports were the first submitted for all operating locations worldwide. He consolidated Marine Corps vendor pay operations from Okinawa, Japan, without any disruption, zero interest and no discounts lost.



First Sergeant

Master Sgt. Fergus Reekie, of the 374th Transportation Squadron, started the "We Care" program to identify volunteer designated drivers in the squadron. As a result there were no DUI's during his two years in the squadron – the best record at Yokota. He reemphasized duty status reporting guidelines resulting in the best reporting percentage of all base squadrons. As NCO in charge of the unit control center and unit reception center, Reekie coordinated all aspects of the squadron mobility machine to provide 24-hour coverage during exercises and real-world situations. He developed relocation plans and built bug-out kits that enabled the UCC to remain operational during relocation, which were lauded by PACAF IG. He was honored by the Government of Japan with the Association of Good Deeds Award for his work in the local community with orphanages and youth. Only 250 people nationwide are recognized annually.



Wing Company Grade Officer

Capt. John Durnford, as chief navigator and assistant chief of 36th Airlift Squadron Standardization/Evaluation, he was hand-picked by the 374th Operations Group commander to hold the top navigator position in the wing, responsible for setting and implementing flight policies and professional standards for

more than 270 wing-assigned aviators. He was the lead author for the commander-directed rewrite of the 374th OG Local Flying Operations regulation. As mission commander for Cope Thunder 99-04, a three-week exercise held in Alaska, Durnford was directly responsible for the deployment of four C-130 aircraft and 90 people. As the team leader he set high standards: 97 sorties, 260 hours flown, 80 tons of cargo transported, 100 percent airdrop loads on target, 100 percent assault landings successful, and 97 percent of sorties on time with no safety incidents.



Tenant Company Grade Officer

Capt. Gary Miller, as chief of the only Pacific theater Open Source Intelligence Program, he masterminds a program with four Japanese technical experts reviewing foreign language newspapers and technical journals to produce reports critically acclaimed through the intelligence community. One of his reports received a rare "Significant Impact" evaluation. His computerized reporting and tracking process eliminated delays. Reports now reach customers 50 percent faster. Miller researched and procured more than \$4,000 in equipment additions and upgrades. This introduced cutting-edge technology to the unit, which now serves more customers with a 75 percent increase in output. He led a squadron/National Center effort to provide critical foreign threat data to key allied nations.



U.S. Civilian

Simone Koram, supervisor of family enrichment programs for the Family Support Center, directed and coordinated six events for the 1999 Military Family Week touted as the best ever. She also orchestrated the one-year anniversary of the installation's Parent/Child Playgroup. Her continued refinement of the program resulted in a 60 percent increase in family usage. She added eight new programs based on popular demand and lobbied for a full-time coordinator. She instituted an evening session to support 92 dual working and single parents. Koram was selected as the project officer for the first-ever Team Yokota Leadership Forum; a four-hour, high-visibility seminar designed to orient leadership and spouses on hot issues affecting individuals on the base.



Civilian

Akiko Fujita, 374th Medical Group safety officer, fulfilled all Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations requirements for program compliance; the medical equivalence of a Nuclear Surety Inspection. She implemented the first 374th Medical Group fire prevention "Fire loading" binder and provided life safety guidances that were recognized as a benchmark by the hospital accrediting board and applauded for thoroughness by the 374th Medical Group Environment of Care and Executive Committee. Fujita ran the medical group's Hazard Surveillance Program and reduced mishaps to virtually zero. This was recognized by the wing's Executive Staff Committee as the "wing's best program." She also established and implemented the first comprehensive training program for Japanese employees in the group. It was recognized as a benchmark program.



Commander's viewpoint

Before you say 'Oh no! Not another exercise!'

By Col. Mark Bartels
Wing Inspector General

Oh. No! Another Exercise!

Not another three days of long lines outside the Post Office and ID checks at all the gates.

How often have we said this? Let's look at why we exercise and how our lives may depend on it.

The 374 Airlift Wing must maintain response capability for a myriad of contingencies throughout the Pacific theater. These scenarios range from responding to a natural disaster on or near Yokota AB to full-scale war in a neighboring nation. If such an event occurs, we may need to deploy our personnel and equipment to other locations and/or receive other units' forces from all over the world.

The purpose of conducting exercises is ensuring that we are always ready to respond to any of these possibilities. Just like our favorite pro football teams who practice before the season, we train our team in doing what we are supposed to do, and doing it right. To validate training, both teams have scrimmages; they have preseason games, we have exercises and inspections. There are however, some differences between the NFL and the military. First, we do not have the luxury of knowing when the real games are scheduled; we must be capable of per-



Mark Bartels

forming at our peak every day. Second, and most significant, our contests don't deal with a playoff bid, but with people's lives hanging in the balance.

Exercises conducted at Yokota can be split into three types: Initial Response Readiness Exercises (IRRE), Combat Employment Readiness Exercises (CERE), and Major Accident Response Exercises (MARE). Each of these exercises has specific areas to be tested, but generally we evaluate Command and Control, emergency force responses, and each unit and individual's actions during high stress conditions.

During the **IRREs** we evaluate the wing's ability to **prepare and deploy** personnel, weapons systems, and equipment for our wartime contingency tasking or Operations Other than War. We concentrate on Command and Control, Deployment Readiness, Mission Support, and Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) Readiness.

For the **CEREs** we look at the **employment and sustainability** phases of a major contingency. Major evaluated areas are Command and Control, Employment Readiness, Mission Support, and ATSO.

The **MAREs** are quite different from the other two exercises. For these exercises we evaluate the wing's ability to **respond to an accident or natural disaster**. The main areas of focus for these exercises are Command and Control, emergency force response and Self-Aid and Buddy Care. In the past we have conducted exercises involving simulated aircraft accidents, typhoons, and earthquakes.

For all exercises, the Inspector General (374 AW/

IG) is responsible to plan, orchestrate and evaluate the wing's activities. Certainly a few people cannot accomplish this enormous task, so during the exercises, the IG Inspection Branch is augmented with individuals from throughout the entire wing. These personnel, the Exercise Evaluation Team (EET), work with the commanders in determining unit goals for the upcoming exercise.

The EET meets to coordinate each unit's requirements and builds a creative and realistic scenario that will fulfill them. The overall Schedule of Events is then hammered out. This schedule will ideally maximize participation, deconflict activities, ensure necessary support and reduce confusion. And finally, the exercise can begin.

Obviously, meeting real contingency taskings or responding to actual natural disasters takes the support of the whole base population. The support required for our exercises is no different. From the extended work hours of our military members and civilian employees, to the various inconveniences at the BX, commissary, etc, everyone throughout Yokota feels the additional stress of these exercises. There is little doubt that without the entire community's involvement, the units' and the wing's overall goals could not be met.

Fortunately, it looks like we don't have a "real" game this Sunday or next. But if someone comes to play, we will be victorious because we are trained, and we prove ourselves ready with every exercise. We are the world champions because **YOU** are on our team.

Action Line

Parking problems

There is a parking problem now that the enlisted club has gone into its next phase of construction. People want to use the parking lot at the library instead of the normal parking lot at the enlisted club. This forces me to park in the enlisted club parking lot when I go to the library.

Something needs to be done because the enlisted club will be under construction for some time.

It's no secret that parking is limited here at Yokota. Yokota Air Base is one of the smallest air bases in the Air Force that has an active runway.

The entire base covers 1,750 acres. The airfield takes up 1,350 acres leaving only 400 acres for

housing, support facilities, roads and parking lots. New construction throughout the base adds to this inconvenience.

The library happens to be located in a high-traffic area which includes the enlisted club, Johnson Tower, the bowling center, Family Support Center and food court -- all of which contribute to limited parking.

To help alleviate the problem, the enlisted club will provide information on their monthly calendar and bills explaining the need to use the enlisted club parking lot. The bowling center will also make announcements to patrons during league play.

Of course, when upgrades to the enlisted club are finished later this year, additional parking will open up.

I appreciate your patience and hope parking inconveniences do not discourage you from using the library or other facilities.

Action Line

225-TEAM or action.lines@yokota.af.mil

The Action Line is your direct line Col. Mark Zamzow, 374th Airlift Wing commander.

Use the Action Line if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command.

When you call, leave your name and phone number so you can be reached for more information if needed. Your identity won't be released to the public. Subjects affecting the base population will be published here.

Col. Mark Zamzow
374th Airlift Wing
commander

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DEADLINE

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Next week ...
Mobility exercise

Commander's viewpoint

What kind of 'mobilization hero' are you?

By Col. Mark Zamzow
374th Airlift Wing commander

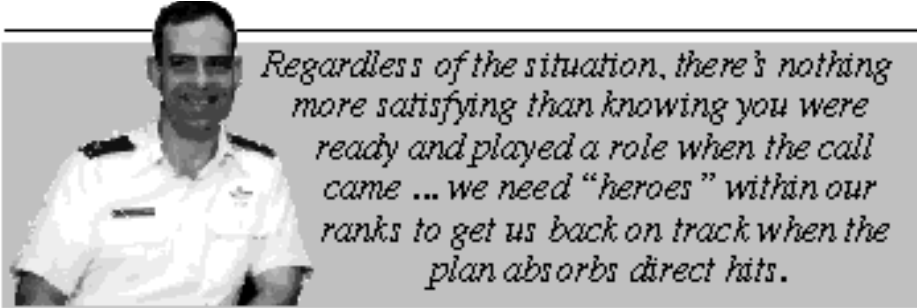
I don't consider myself a movie buff, but there was a great scene in *Saving Private Ryan* that will always stick with me. It's the opening scene, which highlights the heroics of the young American troops and junior officers, who were not afraid to take matters into their own hands when it became painfully apparent that the entire Normandy invasion plan drawn up by the generals was going south in a hurry.

By being innovative, these young privates, sergeants, lieutenants and captains of World War II devised their own plan, regained the objective of the original plan – and changed not only the outcome of the battle, but the outcome of human history. None of that happened by accident. It happened because American military personnel are trained to be innovative.

Just like employment actions during war, there are always mobilization activities that are never executed as expected in the plans. And Yokota is no exception. When we conduct our mobility exercises, the best laid mobilization plans never go perfectly (despite our righteous efforts to cover all the bases)!

When you think about it, when do extremely large projects that the military or any civilian organization plan for really come off without a hitch? They never do – there is always some small thing (or maybe a large thing) that wasn't expected.

So, what happens then? The team modifies the plan, makes appropriate adjustments, and then moves toward that same goal, only on a slightly different path. And that's okay, because we train not only to become proficient at multiple skills, but



we also train so we can handle the unexpected. Thus the saying: **“Flexibility is the key to airpower!”**

Effectively trained people who use their heads, understand the overall goal, and have the flexibility to adjust plans to meet the objectives. It's as true in life as it is in business, sports and the military – **those who prepare the best, can handle adversity the easiest.**

In the Profession of Arms, when so many lives are at stake – not only from a “threat” perspective, but also from a “safety” perspective – it is critical that our training be taken seriously. Equipment, lives, and wars can be lost, and nations dissolved if we aren't effectively trained.

Those of us in the 374th Airlift Wing will get an opportunity to demonstrate our training Feb. 14-17 by conducting a mobility exercise (nicknamed “Beverly Morning 00-04”). We'll simulate mobilization of personnel within a couple dozen UTCs (unit type codes) to deploy out of Yokota to some fictional location within the theater. At the same time, we'll simulate reception of personnel from the CONUS along with their aircraft and equipment.

Yes, we train for the tough, realistic scenarios because we must be ready to adapt and change when things don't go perfectly. Since equipment breaks down,

computer networks fail, and the “enemy” actively and passively attacks our personnel and resources, we must be trained to change our plans and continually fight to win.

Let's consider what makes a military operation successful: Troops who know their roles, know the unit objectives, and work beyond the scope of their expertise to overcome obstacles that forced that “perfect plan” to go awry.

In actual combat scenarios, we call those people “heroes,” and, at the highest levels, award them the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star or the Air Force Cross. For all our training scenarios, I'll just call them “Mobilization Heroes” – the folks who save the day and keep the operation on track when things start falling apart.

What kind of “Mobilization Hero” are you? Let me describe just a few types of heroes I see.

The “safety hero.” Looks beyond his/her own focus area to keep actions safe. (e.g. helps that forklift driver safely backup in tight areas, reminds flightline personnel to wear that reflective belt, etc)

The “process hero.” Knows the sequence of events beyond his work area. (e.g. recognizes the impact on the processing line if all of the units deploying members don't have all the deployment paperwork, calls the squadron's Unit

Control Center when a member doesn't show up on time, etc)

The “timing hero.” Is fully aware of the implications of missed “action complete times”. (e.g. realizes that the pace of work won't allow unit to meet their cargo processing time and motivates the team to move faster; coordinates multiple “parallel actions” to allow simultaneous completion so the aircraft can depart on time, etc)

The “cargo hero.” Understands how critical it is to deploy with the right equipment. (e.g. works quickly to fill “holes” in the unit's Readiness Spares Package that were caused by peacetime operational needs, insures the required paperwork for each pallet is correctly completed to avoid being deposited in the “Frustrated Cargo” holding area, etc)

The “leadership hero.” Knows that attitude, sweat, and teamwork make or break any mobilization effort. (e.g. motivates team to avoid taking “unsafe” shortcuts even though they're getting tired, gets his/her own hands dirty leading by example in every possible way, etc)

I pray that our nation never goes to war again. But even short of war, our military often mobilizes for Military Operations Other than War (MOOTW) to include peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. Regardless of the situation, there's nothing more satisfying than knowing you were ready and played a role when the call came.

Therefore, we must always be prepared for the toughest scenarios, and we need “heroes” within our ranks to get us back on track when the plan absorbs direct hits. What kind of “Mobilization Hero” will you become next week and when the “real thing” happens?

PARK from page 1

“Part of the solution, I think, is to empower the vast majority of kids who are responsible to set the example and do some mentoring with the few kids who are causing the problems,” Zamzow said. “The youth of Yokota want and need this facility, and so does the wing leadership. Those kids, their parents and this wing need to collectively work to avoid catastrophic injuries that can be inherent in this activity when proper protective gear is not worn.”

The park has been in operation for a little more than a year. It opened Dec. 26, 1998, and was more than three years in the making. The idea for the park came from

Yokota youths, who drew out plans for the park on a napkin. True Ride, a professional skateboard park company, was contracted to build the facility.

The park was intended to give youths a safe and legal place to skate. Before the park opened, youths were skateboarding at the East Elementary School and other areas of base, which were off limits.

Due to the extremely hard density of skate board and roller blade wheels, school black tops and facilities were being significantly damaged. The skate park offers several challenging structures, including: the slidebar, the rail, the six-foot quarter pipe, the three-foot wedge, a three-

foot launch and fly box, a two-foot fun box, a three-foot spine, a four-foot quarter pipe, a four-foot wedge, a four-foot mini ramp and a four-foot bank.

The skate park is normally open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Youths must be at least 8 years old or accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Only skateboards, in-line skates and BMX or free-style bicycles are allowed in the park. Pegs on bikes must be capped or taped. Protective gear is required at all times, including helmet, knee, elbow pads and shoes. Wrist pads are also recommended.

Only patrons with safety equipment are allowed inside the park.

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To Roxalila,
For my beautiful,
sweet "C loo lale"
princess on Valentine's
Day. I love you babygirl.
J-Ray

Happy
Valentine's to the love
of my life DFL. Love
always your wife
SLH.

Honey Parker,
SERENITY
Shannon

Sweetie,
You make all my
dreams come true.
I love you always.
Love Your Precious

Bryan,
Happy Valentine's
Day and Happy
Anniversary. You are
the love of my life.
Beth

Happy Valentine's
Day to my life long love
affair, Marcus Jackson.
Loving you now
and forever.
Tasha

Miss J. Thank you so
much for being You..I
Love you'
Mr. J

To JPC "Tex"
Just wanted you to know
how much I love you'
Your Isopline

To my page club,
A million XOXO for
every moment we
spend apart.
boo-boo

Alicia & Paige
You are my life!
Always & Forever
Jill

Pai,
Happy Valentine's Day!
I love you with all my
heart!
Jeff

Rose,
Near far, where
ever you are, my heart
will go on.
Jack

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY

Michael,
You're my sunshine after
the rain, and even in the
rain, you are wonderful.
Love always,
Lou

SGI note corners,
Be our Valentines.
Feel at home in your
friend's home.
Dave & Melissa
225-2254

Id,
It has been a pleasure
loving you'
J

Happy Valentine's
Day to my wonderful
son LAF!
Love Mom (SLH)

Mary, I wish you
Happiness!
Thanks for being
my Valentine!
Love Daddy

Happy Valentine's Day
to my beautiful
daughter LFI.
Love Mom (SLH)

Fluffy,
Love ya always!
Charlie

LB
You are the absolute
greatest. I love you so
much!
JB



‘Mango’

Yokota resident, former NCO reflects on a not so typical career

By Maj. Stephen Clutter
Wing Public Affairs

Michael Martinez is sporting a beard these days. It’s coming in thick, with a few mature white whiskers mottled in with the black forest of hair beneath the chin. For a guy who has been getting close shaves and short haircuts for 24 years, growing a beard seems as much an act of benign liberation as an excuse not to shave.

“Oh, it’s not that big a deal,” he chuckles, stroking his beard nonchalantly. Martinez, 40, who was assigned to the 374th Medical Operations Squadron, recently ended his career with decorations rarely seen in the Air Force today — two Purple Hearts and two awards for valor.

A few months ago, Martinez — or Mango, pronounced Mongo, as he’s called — was a clean-shaven technical sergeant, in his service dress uniform, standing in front of the 374th Airlift Wing headquarters building. A crowd had gathered for the monthly retreat ceremony — this one conducted by the 374th Medical Group. Motorists idling at the traffic light gazed at the group of airmen standing at attention and the honor guard, tenderly folding the flags.

Besides the normal retreat, the Med Group was conducting a retirement ceremony for Martinez, whose Air Force career ended close to the same spot where it began — when he left Yokota High School for the U.S. Air Force Academy back in 1977. Some who were invited to the Nov. 26 event questioned why they should bother to attend a retirement ceremony for a technical sergeant. It never said anywhere on the invitation that he had more decorations than any senior officer on Yokota.

“It’s not something I talk about,” Martinez shrugged.

He received his first Purple Heart while serving as a medic during the Grenada operation in 1983. He had just loaded six wounded soldiers onto a Huey. As the chopper was lifting off, it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. “All I remember was going down,” Martinez said. “And trying to pull guys out.” All aboard, including the crew, survived, but Martinez was seri-

ously wounded. “The next thing I knew, I woke up on a (hospital) cot.”

Martinez didn’t realize he’d received a Purple Heart. As he was coming out of his post-operative slumber, he felt something rubbing his nose and lurched out at it.

“The guy laying next to me said, ‘man, you just threw your Purple Heart across the room.’”

Martinez was also wounded two years later in Nicaragua while serving as a medic for Joint Task Force Bravo. He was on patrol with an Army unit when one of the soldiers stepped on a land mine. Martinez had both arms broken and was also taking care of two wounded troops. “I had to teach the other guys how to splint my arms,” he recalls.

For Martinez, his interest in service to others began as a boy with a “mental click” — something he heard on the radio here in the Tokyo area while reading comic books to wounded American servicemen recuperating on their way home from the Vietnam War. “...Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”

What the boy heard was a radio spot that aired on the Far East Network (now AFN). The words were from President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address. Kennedy had been dead for about five years. But the words seeped into his soul.

“I said, ‘who was that?’ I didn’t know at the time that it was President Kennedy.”

That motto of service has guided him all his life, said Martinez, who hopes to be a teacher at Yokota High School, where he is currently coaching wrestling (Ironically, he was forced to leave the Air Force Academy on a medical condition after a suffering a wrestling injury. He married the former Charlene Ann Payne of Corpus Christi a year later and enlisted in the Air Force after the birth of their first child — the couple now have four children)

The Yokota area is home for Martinez. He was born near here at the old Tachikawa Air Base, where his father was stationed. He has many Japanese relatives, including a grandmother from his mother’s side, in the area.

Anyone who has been to the Fussa Tanabata Festival may recognize Martinez, who has led the group carrying the 800-pound Mikoshi shrine for several years. “That’s been a dream-come-true for me,” he said. “Ever since I was a kid, I’ve been wanting to do that.”

Looking back on his career at Yokota, the event that stands out most for him was Operation Pacific Haven in 1996 — when medical personnel from Yokota were tasked to set up a medial facility for 6,000 incoming Kurdish refugees on Guam.

The Yokota medics battled darkness and pouring rain to set up the Air Transportable Hospital. “We set up in seven hours, which should have taken 24 hours,” Martinez said. The team was seeing up to 250 patients a day at the facility, he added.

So where did he get the nickname, Mango?

From his stint with JTF Bravo, while trying to give an inoculation to a pair of oxen.

“The first ox starts going stupid on me,” he recalls. The animal went wild and was kicking and crushing him, Martinez said. “I picked up something (a rock) and smashed him in the forehead and knocked him out.”

Martinez may have been fighting for his life, but it stuck the other troops funny—and reminded them of what Alex Karras’ character did in the opening of the movie Blazing Saddles, when he knocked out a horse.

As with most nicknames given in the military, it’s now indelible. “I’ve been Mango ever since,” said Martinez. “Looking back at my time in (the military), I wouldn’t change a thing,” he added. “The Air Force taught me all the skills I ever needed. I just needed to apply them.”

Which is what he did, in answering the refrain from what he’d heard as a young boy on the radio — for his country.



Advertisement

Power outage

There will be a power outage in Tower 4301 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Monday. The power will be out so contractors can check and repair the tower’s substation.

Officers social

There will be an officers social at 6 p.m. today in the officers’ club ballroom. For more information, call 225-8341.

DRMO sale

Defense Reutilization Marketing Office Sagami will have its next sealed bid sale Thursday. A variety of items will be offered. Inspection will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 14-16. Bid opens at 8 a.m. Feb. 17. For more information, call 268-4508.

Young artist competition

Yokota junior high and high school musicians are invited to compete for prizes in this year’s Y2K Young Artist Competition. The event is sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia and the Yokota Officers’ Spouses’ Club. The first place winners will receive \$400, second place \$250, and \$150 for third place. Submit applications to school music teachers or to the USAF Band of the Pacific-Asia by Feb. 25. Solo competition will be held March 11.

Thrift Shop scholarships

The Yokota Officers’ Spouses’ Club Thrift Shop is giving away \$38,000 in scholarships. Yokota graduating seniors are eligible for \$28,000 in scholarships. Applications are available from Ms. Harrigan’s office. Ten thousand dollars in scholarships are available to base spouses. Pick up an application at the education of-

fice or the Thrift Shop. Applications are due Feb. 25. For more information, call 042-545-9044.

Claims briefing

The claims briefing scheduled for Wednesday has been cancelled due to the exercise. For more information, call 225-9935.

Diversity workshop

The Community Diversity Support Team is sponsoring a diversity workshop from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in the west chapel. For more information or to sign up, call 225-3648.

Correction

The Marine in the page 2 photo in last week’s edition was misidentified as Sgt. Jason Bailey. Pictured was actually Corp. Jacob Shaw.

Bazaar

The Yokota Enlisted Spouses Club is sponsoring a Cho’Sun Korean bazaar from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 26-27 in the Family Support Center auditorium. For more information, call 225-8730.

My Honey & Money

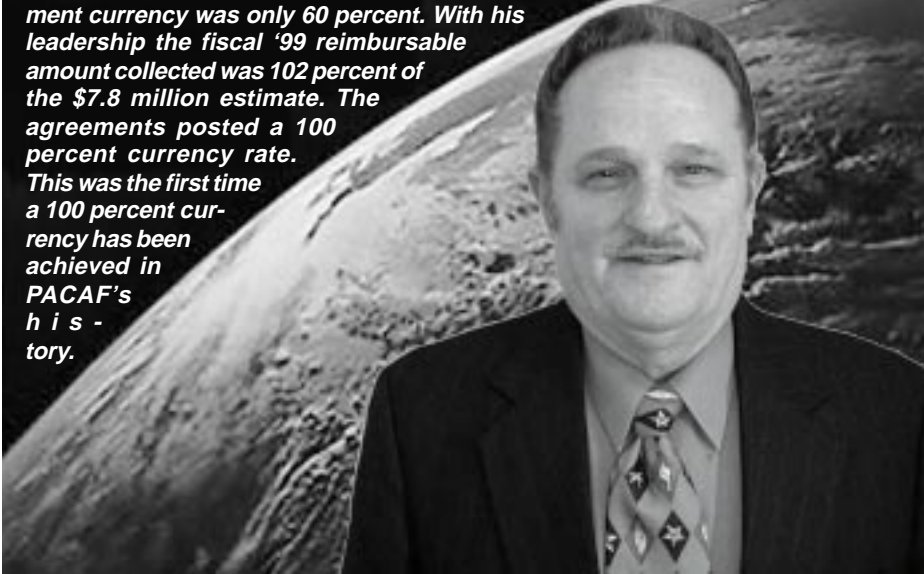
A My Honey and Money financial management class will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Family Support Center. The class is developed to assist couples and includes topics like managing debt, credit management and setting financial goals as a couple. For more information, call 225-8725.

Red Cross classes

Healthy Pregnancy/Healthy Baby -- 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday or Feb. 22 in the

Above & Beyond

Who: Bill Hash
Reason: *Calling upon his 30 years of military experience the retired chief master sergeant brought the Yokota Support Agreements Program to unprecedented heights. Prior to his arrival, the program had some of the lowest statistics in PACAF. Collectable reimbursements totaled 59 percent of the estimate and agreement currency was only 60 percent. With his leadership the fiscal '99 reimbursable amount collected was 102 percent of the \$7.8 million estimate. The agreements posted a 100 percent currency rate. This was the first time a 100 percent currency has been achieved in PACAF's history.*



hospital’s first floor conference room.

Babysitter’s Course -- noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Bldg. 4018 Room 212.

Community First Aid and Safety -- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 19 in Bldg. 4018 Room 212.

For more information, call 227-3308.

First aid classes

Red Cross instructor training classes will be held Feb. 20, 26 and 27. All three classes are necessary for certification.

The class is free if participants agree to teach first aid and CPR classes while at

Yokota. For more information, call 225-7522.

SRB changes

Headquarters Air Force has announced numerous changes to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program. SRB increases/additions were effective Jan. 13 and decreases/removals will be effective Feb. 19. Eligible airmen in reduced/terminated SRB Air Force Specialty Codes must reenlist on or before Feb. 18 to qualify for current multiple levels.

For more information, call the Career Enhancement Element at 225-9443.

Fuji Classifieds

To submit an ad, e-mail: fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil or drop off at the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office (Bldg. 315). Advertisements must be for one-time sales only, 25 words or less and include a name and phone number. No more than two ads per family, per week. Ads are run for two or three weeks (space permitting)

For sale: Entertainment center, fits up to 36” TV, \$50; double bed, includes frame, box springs and mattress, \$35; two white end tables and a coffee table, \$30 for set; book shelf, \$10; VCR, \$25; officer men’s service dress, worn twice, size 38R jacket, 32R pants, \$75; rust color carpet, \$25; 12,000 BTU air conditioner, \$75; cream curtains for garden house, \$20. 227-2419. (1)

Free: Bicycle for boy age 8-10. 551-7108. (1)

Wanted: Used Volvo station wagon in good condition from the 1990’s. 227-8955. (1)

Free: Affectionate 5-month-old kitten, tabby with golden eyes. Is out of tune with new piano in home, but kitty is otherwise purrfect. Cat accouterments available. 042-551-7108. (1)

For sale: 1991 Mazda Persona, 4-door, 5-speed, AM/FM cassette, air, power locks, windows and mirrors, low mileage, excellent condition, runs perfect, must see, \$2,200. 227-3028. (1)

Motorcycle: 1994 Harley Davidson 1200 XLH,

4,500 miles, mint condition, many extras, \$6,000 OBO. 227-2688. (1)

For sale: Four all-season, steel-belted radial tires with rims, size 185/70R13, \$100. 227-4059. (1)

Automobile: 1987 U.S. model Porsche 928, sunroof, leather, cassette, CD changer, 47,000 miles, metallic blue, \$9,500 OBO. 227-4603. (1)

For sale: Wedding gown, white satin, never been

worn, \$800. 227-8963. (1)

Automobile: 1989 Nissan SE, JCI until July 2001, runs good, excellent condition, \$1,500 OBO. 227-9942. (1)

For sale: Japanese off-base phone line, \$400. 227-3749. (1)

Motorcycle: 1997 R1100RT BMW sport/tour motorcycle, heated hand grips, electric windshield, ABS, stereo system, two helmets, cover, extra tools, and more, \$12,000 OBO. 227-2972. (1)

Automobile: 1988 Nissan Gloria 24v 2.0 turbo, very good condition, new timing belt and pulleys, two years JCI, deluxe model with all electrical components, mirrors, windows, door locks, etc., \$2,500 OBO. 227-2972. (1)

For sale: Wedding gown, white, off-shoulder, floor length with long train, design with beads and pearls, 50,000 yen. 227-4000. (1)

For sale: Large grandfather clock with curio side, \$1,500; elegant looking Dynasty dining room set with eight chairs and 4-door china cabinet, all for \$4,000; nice looking large living room set, 4-piece, \$1,500; almost new threadmil, \$350; five air conditioners, three like new, all work great, \$500; 50-gallon Asian aquarium, \$700. 227-7336. (2)

Automobiles: 1985 Nissan Gloria, black tinted windows, JCI until May 2001, runs great, \$1,500; 1988 Mazda Capella, 4-wheel steering, excellent vehicle, \$1,800; 1988 Honda, 4-door, automatic, runs and looks great, JCI until November 2001, \$1,200. 227-7336. (2)

For sale: Computer table, black metal with white shelves and pull-out mouse shelf, \$35 OBO. 227-4625. (2)

Automobile: 1990 Nissan Presea, white, 4-door, great mileage, CD player with 10-disc changer and remote, very dependable family car, \$2,000 OBO. 227-3779. (2)

Automobile: 1998 Mazda Miata, 2-seat roadster convertible, air, automatic, metallic green with black vinyl top, dark charcoal sued leather seats, JCI until January 2001, bought for \$22,000 in 1998, will sell for \$13,000 OBO. 267-6334. (2)

For sale: Black lab puppy, full bred with papers, 4 months old, \$800 OBO. 227-3989. (2)

Automobile: 1988 Toyota Camry, 4-door, white, JCI until November, runs great, \$500 OBO. 227-4497. (2)

Motorcycle: 1990 CR 125, \$600; riding gear and van to haul in available. 227-3178. (2)

Automobile: 1990 Nissan Cefiro, JCI until August 2001, 66,000 Km., runs great, new tires, battery and alternator, base inspection in September 1999, \$2,000. 227-4159. (2)

For sale: Storage building, bought last summer, \$275; Japanese houseplants, \$5; two houseplants, \$15; Kawai acoustic upright piano, excellent condition, \$800. 0425-34-6939. (2)

For sale: Lil Kawasaki 4-wheeler, battery or foot power, used only once, \$79. 95 new, \$40 firm. 227-4192. (2)

Automobile: 1989 MR2, great condition and fast, JCI until October 2001, \$1,800.227-9197. (2)

For sale: 18,000 BTU air conditioner, good condition; 12,000 BTU air conditioner, excellent condition; awning for east side garden; 9x12 beige rug, excellent condition, \$150 for everything, you take down and move. 227-6006. (2)

For sale: Two computer monitors, make offer. 227-3203. (2)

For sale: Boss distortion pedal for guitar, \$50; Ice hockey equipment from the helmet to the shin guards, everything but the ice skates. 227-9638. (2)

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FFS

BETWEEN THE LINES

“I’m not saying I’m the best, but there is no one better than me out there.”

-- Ricky Williams

Former Texas running back on how he stacked up against the rest of the draft



Vol. 41 No. 6

Yokota Air Base, Japan

Feb.11, 2000




photo by Senior Airman Matt Miller

Punchin’ your way to fitness

Aerobics instructor, Erin O’Neil, leads her Kickbox Aerobics class through some pre-workout warm-up maneuvers at the Natatorium. This Kickbox Aerobics class is one of several the fitness center offers throughout the week. The following is the current schedule of aerobics classes: Eye Opening Workout, from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday; Kickbox Aerobics, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; Heart Pumpin’ Step, from 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays; Step On It, from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Tone & Sweat, from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Aqua Aerobics, from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Heart Pumpin’ Step, from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays; Tone with Weights, from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays; Tone & Sweat, from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturdays; Weekend Workout, from 4 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call the Natatorium at 225-2280.

ON THE BENCH

Feb. 11 through Apr. 1

Youth registration

Boys and girls club baseball and softball registration for youths ages 11 to 15 is currently going on until March 15 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Youth Center. For more information, call Fred McDaniels at 225-7441.

Coaches certification

The Youth Center will hold coaches certification from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 18 and 25 and April 1 at the Youth Center. For more information, call Fred McDaniels at 225-7441.

Coaches meeting

There is a coaches meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. March 28 and 31 at the Youth Center. For more information, call Fred McDaniels at 225-7441.

5AF douses CES in Over-30 championship

By Senior Airman Matt Miller
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In sports, timing is everything. Just take a look at the 5th Air Force’s Over-30 basketball team. Even though they have all the aspects of a great team, they faltered in the beginning of the season.

“Early on we had some chemistry problems,” said 5AF small forward William Ethridge. “We seemed to come together just at the right time – in the playoffs.”

It was this cohesion that enabled 5AF to dominate the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron in the championship, 71 – 42, Feb. 1.

“I feel we played our best game in the championship,” said Ethridge. “We were flawless in the first half and cruised from there on.”

This flawlessness that Ethridge speaks of was the domination on both boards, numerous blocked shots which culminated in several fast breaks and meticulous inside/outside offensive work that created easy shots from everywhere.

Fifth AF was able to pick on CES for 42 points, taking a 19-point lead going into the half.

“We felt as though their previous (consolation bracket) game would help them since they were loose and pumped up from a close win. We knew we had to come in and play our game starting with defense,” said Ethridge. “As it turned out, they were a little more tired and we were looser than we thought.”

Things didn’t change much in the second half. Fifth AF still used the opportunities that their defense created to get easy buckets while CES, feeling the doors close on them, started to take desperation three-pointers to get back into the game.

But when the dust had settled and all of the foul shots were taken, the old-timers from 5AF had the championship well in hand.

Joe Myers led all 5AF scorers with 17 points. Ethridge dropped in 14 and Ron Williams added 12. Fifth AF also finished the regular season as National League champs with a 6 – 1 record.

Kurt Schroeder led all CES scorers with 14 points. Craig Cooper dropped in 11 and Cedric Tanner added 6.

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